

SECRET
PR10143-2629
Department of State

S/S-C:TRREYNDERS:EO
12/19/79 22522
S/S-C:WFOPE

ROUTINE

ALDAC

CFR REPORT. INFORM CONSULS, CINC/SHAPE FOR POLADS ONLY

E.O. 12065: RDS-3 12/19/85 (TARNOFF, PETER)

TAGS: XX, US

SUBJECT: (U) CURRENT FOREIGN RELATIONS, ISSUE NO. 50,
DECEMBER 19, 1979

(C) TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE

1. AF - RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT AGREED 2
2. PA - AMERICAN PUBLIC BACKS SHAH'S ADMISSION TO U.S.;
HOPES HE LEAVES; OPPOSES RETURNING HIM TO IRAN -
3. LNEA - RISING ECONOMIC CRITICISM OF PRESIDENT LADAT 3
4. LNEA - SOVIETS SEND NEW TROOPS TO AFGHANISTAN 4
5. LNEA - CIVIL DISTURBANCES IN TAIWAN AND THE AUTHORITIES'
RESPONSE 5
6. LNEA - AFTER THE MILITARY POWER PLAY IN SEOUL 6
7. LNEA - CHINA'S QUEST FOR ECONOMIC AID 6
8. LNEA - FAO CONFERENCE ADDRESSES FOOD SECURITY, TRADE,
AND BUDGET ISSUES 7
9. LNEA - UN ENERGY CONFERENCE ON NEW AND RENEWABLE SOURCES
OF ENERGY 7
10. LNEA - EFFORTS TO CHANGE SECURITY COUNCIL SIZE AND VOTING 8
11. EUR - CANADA'S PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVES VOTED OUT 8
12. ARA - NICARAGUA UPDATE 8
13. ARA - BRAZIL DEVALUES CRUZEIRO, LIBERALIZED TRADE 8
14. S/S-C - SEASONS GREETINGS 8

SECRET

4. (U) NEA - SOVIETS SEND NEW TROOPS TO AFGHANISTAN
(GDS 12/19/85)

{S} DURING THE FIRST HALF OF DECEMBER, THE SOVIET UNION DEPLOYED MAJOR ELEMENTS OF AN AIRBORNE REGIMENT TO BAGRAM AIR BASE NORTH OF KABUL. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF SOVIET MILITARY PERSONNEL IN AFGHANISTAN NOW EXCEEDS 5,000, AND THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT ADDITIONAL TROOPS MAY BE INTRODUCED.

{S} THE MISSION OF THESE NEW FORCES REMAINS UNKNOWN, BUT AT A MINIMUM THEY INCREASE MOSCOW'S CAPABILITY TO SECURE THE BAGRAM-KABUL AREA. OBVIOUSLY THEY COULD ALSO BE USED ELSEWHERE IN AFGHANISTAN AGAINST TRIBAL REBELS.

{S} DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER HAS EXPRESSED TO THE SOVIET CHARGE SERIOUS CONCERN OVER THIS SIGNIFICANT EXPANSION OF THE SOVIET MILITARY PRESENCE IN AFGHANISTAN. WE ARE CONSULTING WITH A WIDE RANGE OF ALLIES, INTERESTED COUNTRIES IN THE REGION AND KEY NON-ALIGNED SUCH AS YUGOSLAVIA AND ALGERIA, SUGGESTING THAT THEY MAY WISH TO EXPRESS CONCERN DIRECTLY TO THE SOVIETS.

{S} WITHIN AFGHANISTAN, THE INSURGENCY CONTINUES IN MOST OF THE COUNTRYSIDE AND SECURITY ALONG MAJOR ROADS REMAINS PRECARIOUS. THERE HAS BEEN A RECENT RISE IN TERRORIST INCIDENTS IN KABUL ITSELF, AND THE AFGHAN MILITARY CONTINUE TO SUFFER SERIOUS MANPOWER, ORGANIZATIONAL AND MORALE PROBLEMS. WE HAVE BEEN AWARE FOR SOME TIME THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE TAKEN AN INCREASINGLY DIRECT ROLE IN MILITARY COMMAND AND CONTROL FUNCTIONS BUT WE REMAIN UNABLE TO CONFIRM NUMEROUS REPORTS THAT SOVIET PERSONNEL HAVE FLOWN COMBAT MISSIONS FOR THE AFGHAN AIR FORCE OR TAKEN A DIRECT COMBAT ROLE ON THE GROUND.